
California schools focus on academic growth for all students

In October 2001, California public schools received their 2000–2001 academic growth reports. These reports complete the second reporting cycle for the state's new school accountability system authorized by the Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999 (PSAA).

The central focus of the PSAA is growth. It is based on an Academic Performance Index (API). This index measures each school's academic performance, sets growth targets for improvement, and determines if the targets are met. Schools that reach their target will be eligible for awards. Schools that do not meet their targets will be eligible for interventions or subject to sanctions.

Reporting the **A**cademic **P**erformance **I**ndex Growth and Awards

2000–2001



October 2001

Prepared by the
Policy and Evaluation Division
California Department of Education

What is the API?

The API is a numeric index or scale that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. The state set 800 as the interim API score that schools should strive to meet. Schools that fall short of 800 are required to meet annual growth targets until their goal is achieved. Schools that already meet or exceed the 800 API should continue working to improve the academic performance of all students.

What was used to calculate the API for 2000 and 2001?

Results of the Stanford 9 test, given each spring as part of the state's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program, were used to calculate a school's API for the 2000 Base and 2001 Growth.

Additional information about a school's academic performance will be used for the API in future years. That achievement data may include results of other tests that are aligned to state standards, primary language tests, and attendance and graduation rates.

What does the 2000–2001 growth report include?

This report includes each school's 2000 and 2001 API scores, the 2000–2001 growth target and actual growth, whether the target was met, and the school's eligibility for awards. The report also includes the same type of information for subgroups of students at the school.

Do districts receive APIs and growth scores?

No. Only schools receive API and growth reports. The focus of the Accountability System is to improve student academic achievement at every school.

What happens to schools that meet their growth targets?

Schools that meet or exceed their growth targets may be eligible to receive monetary awards through two programs: the Governor's Performance Award or the Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Act Award. To be eligible for these awards, schools also must show that they met student participation rate requirements for the Stanford 9. A total of \$257 million has been allocated for these programs based on the 2000–2001 API reporting cycle.

API Reporting Cycle 2000–2001

January 2001	Base Year Report – includes 2000 API, based on 2000 Stanford 9 test results for schools
October 2001	Growth Report – reports API growth, based on difference between 2000 and 2001 Stanford 9 results for schools

What happens to schools that do not meet their growth targets?

Schools that do not meet their growth targets may be eligible to receive special assistance through the Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program (II/USP). If schools continue not to meet their growth targets, they may be subject to local or state sanctions.

Does the API affect my student's progress in school?

No. The API is part of a state accountability system for schools, not individual students. As students increase their achievement on the Stanford 9 test, however, the school's score on the API will improve.

Where can parents go for more information?

Parents should direct their questions about the PSAA or the 2000–2001 API growth reports to the principal or other school administrators. Further information can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa> on the Internet.



Will schools be eligible for the current awards if they are part of the Alternative Accountability System?

No. Award funds for these schools need to be appropriated through additional legislation.

Are the scores of special education students calculated into the API?

The scores are included unless the student received a non-standard accommodation for the Stanford 9, and/or was not enrolled in the district prior to the year of testing.

What is the API and how is it calculated?

The API measures performance and progress of a school. Results of the Stanford 9 test, given each spring as part of the state's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program, were used to calculate a school's 2000 baseline and growth for 2001.

Additional indicators about a school's academic performance will be used for the API in future years. These achievement data may include results of other tests that are aligned to state standards and attendance and graduation rates.

Governor's Performance Award Program



Information about the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA), the API, and the API-based awards programs can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa>

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What awards are available for schools through the state's new school accountability system?

The Governor has designated two awards to be given to schools and/or to school site employees as part of the state's new accountability system:

- Governor's Performance Award (GPA) Program (Senate Bill 1X)
- Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Act Award (Assembly Bill 1114)*

The School Site Employee Performance Bonus, given last year, was for the 2000–2001 school year only.

What are the criteria to qualify for the GPA?

For a school to qualify for the GPA:

- A school's Academic Performance Index (API) must show at least 5 percent growth
- The API for all numerically significant subgroups of students at the school must make at least 80 percent of the school's growth target
- Elementary and middle schools must have at least a 95 percent participation rate on the Stanford 9 test
- High schools must have at least a 90 percent participation rate on the Stanford 9 test
- Schools must make at least a five points gain, and all subgroups must make at least four points gain.**

No application process is necessary for eligible schools to receive the funds.

How much money could schools receive?

Schools meeting the criteria for the GPA could receive up to \$150 per student. Second through eleventh grade students will be counted.**

When will schools know if they have won an award?

In October 2001 included in the 2000–2001 API Growth reports, the California Department of Education will post on its website those schools meeting the criteria for the GPA.

When will the awards be distributed?

It is anticipated that the award money will be distributed after January 2002.

Who will receive the money?

Under the GPA, schools will receive the funds for schoolwide use.

Will schools be excluded from receiving awards if they have a large number of parent waivers?

Schools with a high percentage of parent waivers on Stanford 9 testing will not receive an API. If the school receives API results and qualifies for the GPA, the amount of funding will be reduced in proportion to the number of parent waivers and the number of other students not tested in grades 2 through 11.

How will schools decide on the use of the funds?

The use of GPA funds at the school will be determined by the existing site governance team/council. The use of the funds will be ratified by the local school board.

Can a school win more than one award?

Yes. Qualifying schools will receive the GPA. Some schools meeting the conditions of the Certified Staff Performance Incentive Award will also receive additional dollars for certificated staff.

What awards will be in place next year?

Currently there is ongoing funding for the GPA and Certificated Staff Incentive awards for the 2001–2002 school year. These awards are expected to continue for the next school year, but only if funds are appropriated in the next state budget.

What happens if a school has a very mobile student population?

Students must have been enrolled in the district prior to the year of testing for their Stanford 9 scores to be included in the school's API. This includes English Learners.

* *Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Act Award is explained in a companion brochure*

** *Pending signature of SB 347 and/or SB 735*

Will this award be available next year?

Yes. Funding for this award is expected to be available next year, but only if funds are appropriated in the next state budget.

Will schools be eligible for the current awards if they are part of the Alternative Accountability System?

No. Award funds for these schools need to be appropriated through additional legislation.

What happens if a school has a very mobile student population?

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Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Act Award



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How do schools qualify for the Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Act Award (Assembly Bill 1114)?

Schools with a 2000 Academic Performance Index (API) in the lower half of the statewide rankings (deciles 1–5) are eligible for this award.

Criteria for receiving the award are:

- The 2001 API for growth must show at least two times the annual growth target, which is a minimum of 10 percent growth from the 2000 API
- The APIs of all numerically significant subgroups of students in the school must make at least 80 percent of the school's 10 percent growth target
- A school must have been API awards eligible in 1999–2000
- Elementary and middle schools must have at least a 95 percent participation rate on the Stanford 9
- High schools must have at least a 90 percent participation rate on the Stanford 9

Who is eligible to receive the money?

All school certificated staff (all site positions requiring certificated staff such as teachers and principals) will receive money for this award. Teachers with emergency credentials are included in the awards funding.

The governing board of the school district shall negotiate individual teacher and other certificated staff salary award amounts with the exclusive representative of the bargaining unit.

How will the awards money be allocated?

Schools that meet the criteria will be ranked from highest to lowest gains based on points over their API targets. Awards will be allocated successively until the \$100 million allocated for this awards program is gone. Distribution will be approximately as follows:

- At least 1,000 certificated staff in schools with the largest growth will receive \$25,000 each.
- At least 3,750 certificated staff will receive \$10,000 each.
- Up to 7,500 certificated staff will receive \$5,000 each.

How will districts know if any of their schools are eligible for this award?

In January 2002, districts will receive a letter informing them of their eligibility and an application/certification form for eligible schools.

When will the award money be distributed?

The award money will be distributed in May 2002.

Do schools have to apply for this award?

State law requires that districts apply for the Assembly Bill 1114 awards on behalf of their eligible schools.

Will all schools that are eligible receive this award?

No. Once the money has been distributed to approximately 12,250 certificated staff in the identified schools, the award funding will be gone.

Are there other award programs for schools meeting their API targets?

Yes. The Governor has designated other award to be given to schools based on API growth—the Governor's Performance Award (GPA) Program (Senate Bill 1X).

Can a school win more than one award?

Yes. Schools meeting conditions for this award will automatically receive the GPA.
